

CONGRESSMAN HERRICK'S CONTEST FOR "WHOLE- SOULED LOVE" BRINGS DOWN A STORM OF ANGER FROM RELATIVES OF GIRLS

REJECTED HERE, HE LOOKS TO FAR LAND

His Search for Evidence Nets Forty-Nine Amused Beauties and Host of Angered Relatives.

By ED DUFFY.

"MATRIMONY Bridge" spans the Atlantic. The sole owner of "Matrimony Bridge" is Congressman Manuel Herrick, the Oklahoman. For forty-six summers this bridge, leading to marital happiness, has confronted Mr. Herrick.

Every sweltering day of those summers the present Congressman Herrick toiled in single blessedness. Those years of labor have brought him wealth and fame, for he is known in every corner of his home State as the grower of Herrick's Giant Yellow Corn.

There was a time when "Matrimony Bridge" had the bases of its spans firmly riveted in America. The time has passed, and today "Matrimony Bridge" is the only one which stretches across the broad Atlantic. Congressman Manuel Herrick is thoroughly disgusted with American girls.

"When I think of marrying I shall go abroad," he has told his friends. "But that bridge is ahead, maybe far ahead, and I will cross it when I come to it. I will not amplify that statement, interpret it as you may. Suffice to say that my recent experiences have not been pleasant."

So "Matrimony Bridge" remains to be crossed, and when the former Oklahoma farmer first experiences the roll of the tossing Atlantic, his feet on the deck of a real ocean liner in the middle of the water which his bridge does span, then, and only then, may the world look to see the departure of the wealthy farmer from single blessedness.

PROVES A BOOMERANG.

The "investigation" which Congressman Herrick undertook, so sure of obtaining evidence to place before the Judiciary Committee to support his bill showing that aspirants for beauty honors have been made victims of mashers, proved to be a boomerang. It threw a national spotlight on the letter he wrote to pretty girls of the District, supposedly opening a contest for his "whole soul love."

The net result of his "contest for love" investigation may be judged best by the forty-nine amused girls who received the letter, eight indignant mothers who resented his attentions to their daughters, two angry husbands who threatened him with physical punishment on account of his letters and one irate father, who visited him for "personal satisfaction." Mr. Herrick skillfully avoided serious conflict.

A ROUGH DIAMOND.

Congressman Herrick, his friends say, is not the "bold, bad Westerner" he has been painted. He is not the "primitive cave man" some Washington girls imagined, as they read his passionate "contest for love" letter recently.

He is but a farmer. "Mild-mannered, good-natured, great-hearted—but crude, very crude," said the mother of a Washington girl whom he has called on, recently. She continued: "Congressman Herrick is a diamond-in-the-rough, and oh, so very rough at times. But it is because he is only a farmer—like a big country boy, just coming to a strange big city."

This is the consensus of opinion in Washington, following the sudden revelations made in the newspapers about his "beauty contest."

The gentleman from Oklahoma is yet bewildered about it all. He cannot understand the columns the newspapers have been printing about him and his activities. He has a strange, fearful expression on his face, and attempts a smile when the battery of newspaper photographers and moving picture men confront him for their daily "shots."

IS TOO KIND.

"The trouble about it all is I'm too full of the milk of human kindness," says the former Oklahoma farmer. "I am trying to help the pretty young girls who might be lured away from home by 'moral lepers' and their like."

"I wouldn't marry any of those girls that answered my letters. I

FIGURES IN CONGRESSMAN HERRICK'S UNIQUE BEAUTY CONTEST



MRS. THELMA SPENCER O'BRIEN

MISS MARGARET GORMAN

MRS. IOLA SWINNERTON

CONGRESSMAN MANUEL HERRICK

MISS MARY HARBAUGH

ANNA ELIZABETH NIEBEL

ELIZABETH SHOREY

BERTIE MAY ROGERS

MISS IRMA MAYBURY

"Congressman Herrick was anything but a 'father' to me. On three occasions he proposed that I marry him. He suggested an elopement," says sixteen-year-old Elizabeth Shorey, at whose home the Oklahoman once boarded.

HERRICK AS HE SAW HIMSELF WHEN HE WROTE TO GIRLS

CONGRESSMAN HERRICK, who offered himself as the capital prize in his own beauty contest, described himself in letters to prospective entrants as follows:

"I am the last scion of a noble family who lost their political power during the overrunning of Europe by Napoleon the first, and whose family has not become extinct, except for myself.

"Left practically an orphan in infancy, I faced a cold and cruel world penniless and alone, and after overcoming super-human obstacles, have fought my way to wealth and power, and am now seeking a bride worthy of my love.

"No young lady should hesitate to enter this contest because she may think herself too young to become a wife, for if any such should enter the contest and me the winner, the marriage would be cheerfully deferred until she should have attained sufficient age.

"Against my body and against my soul there rests no moral stain for I have kept my soul and my body free of all moral stain in order that I may look my virgin bride in the eye without guilt and shame in my heart.

"The girl who is the winner in this contest will have won the love of a man whose love will be so great that if that was the one and only price that would purchase your soul salvation, he would ransom your soul out of Hell with the price of his own."

girl. It is true I offered to educate her, but not to marry her. I did like her, and wanted to remove her to school. But she would not agree to my conditions, and so I dropped the matter. I have not seen her since."

GOT CIRCUS SEATS.

Elizabeth Shorey tells a story of one night when Congressman Herrick took her to the circus.

"It was a big day to him, when the circus came to town," she said. "He asked me to go with him. I went, but we found people in line to get tickets. They sold out of all the tickets before Mr. Herrick got his. He was indignant, and demanded to see the manager.

"The manager came out, and Mr. Herrick gave him one of his cards. He was told no seats were to be had. Well, Mr. Herrick raised a row and threatened to introduce a bill in Congress prohibiting circuses. We got the seats, and I guess they put two poor persons out to get them for us. We had a very poor time, though."

Herrick is regarded by his colleagues as a well-meaning "eccentric accident."

"Look at his bills in Congress," said one. "One is to prevent election frauds. Another is to stop beauty contests, which he really believes to be hurting the young girls of today. The other would make many homes happy, for it is designed to bring liberty bonds to par."

Beauties Who Were Figures in Contest

MRS. THELMA SPENCER O'BRIEN, indignantly denied reports that she had been in Congressman Herrick's office. Her husband had on two occasions threatened Mr. Herrick, when it was discovered a girl had impersonated Mrs. O'Brien. Bertie May Rogers was instrumental in having the "beauty contest" activities of Mr. Herrick investigated.

Mrs. Iola Swinnerton answered the supposed "decoy" love mislive with a genuine decoy, and when Manuel paid his romantic visit he was confronted by her husband. The mother of charming Margaret Gorman refused to allow her daughter to enter the "contest for love."

Miss Mary Harbaugh denied signing an apology to Mr. Herrick, and it was discovered a policewoman had taken her name. Miss Irma Maybury turned the "love contest" invitation over to the postal authorities.

"Handsome Manuel Herrick" faces 80 per cent perfect, and next to him is the beautiful Anna Elizabeth Niebel, 1370 Harvard street northwest, whom Congressman Herrick says he was "kidding along" when he made love to her on two occasions.

Bread Sells at 2 Cents A Loaf at South Bend

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Sept. 3.—Bread is being sold at the cheapest price ever offered here—two cents a loaf. It has dropped from fifteen cents to five and one-half cents and two cents per loaf, according to size, as a result of the price-slashing war.

and the Congressional Record says he was elected by 31,287 votes to 23,405 for his Democratic opponent and 8,304 to the Socialist opponent.

One of the secrets which are treasured by the Congressman is a formula for the cure of dropsy. It is his own formula, and he will not give it out. "It is worth a fortune, I am glad no one else knows it," he says. "The magic formula will some day be given free to the world, to aid science and humanity," he says.

LOOKS TO WHITE HOUSE

One of Congressman Herrick's pet references are to his "political enemies." To the doors of these same "scheming politicians" he lays many of the reports, tales and rumors that have been circulated in the Capital about him.

"Why they even said I was once in an insane asylum. It is not true, for I was never committed to an institution. I admit being different from the city people but I was never insane. I absolutely deny the story that has been printed that I once held up a train with a wooden gun. Someone started that around the city. It is not true, for I am a moral man and would never undertake to hold up a train."

taken my motives wrongly. I am a moral man, and wouldn't harm any girl. I have two weaknesses. One is for talking too much. I have trusted everybody before I came to Washington. Here every time I talk I get into trouble. Now I intend to talk only when Mr. Lawrence O'Dea, the detective I have employed to look after my interests, tells me to.

"The other weakness is for falling for hard luck stories. I have given away \$64,000, a goodly fortune, in my life. It went to help men down and out. I lost much more in helping people who were taking advantage of me. Persons on Capitol Hill owe me money. Last week I gave \$75 to charity. The public doesn't know that.

Mr. Herrick has experienced the life of a country politician, prosperous farmer, rough and ready cowboy, business man, and now sits in Congress. He claims to have been elected by the largest vote ever polled a Congressman from his district. His politics are Republican,

was merely trying to gain evidence to lay before the Committee on Judiciary when my bill to help such girls, by prohibiting beauty contests, comes up. If I ever think of marrying now, I'll go abroad. That bridge will be crossed when I come to it."

The nation's Capital was set agog recently when news of the "Congressional beauty contest, conducted by Farmer Manuel Herrick, who had introduced a bill prohibiting such contests in Congress, was printed.

"I have been censured for writing such a letter to those girls," says Congressman Herrick. "It was done because such steps had to be taken to gain irrefutable evidence for the passage of my bill. The reason I offered the 'whole-souled love of a handsome, wealthy, influential scion of a noble family' was because the girls needed bait. "It was just like in fishing. I had to have bait to get their replies. The letter succeeded in its purpose, because I got many more than the eight replies the papers said I got. But I didn't go to see more than a few of the girls. I did that to talk to them and explain my purpose. "One person tried to blackmail

me. It is true that I wrote to see Miss Anna Elizabeth Niebel, the Century roof chorus girl, twice. But the public does not know that she wrote a postscript to my letter, saying she would like to meet me sometime. "She called me up and asked me to come to her house the second time. I had asked her to come to my office. She refused. "As I sat in the Niebel parlor, I kidded her along, believe me. She was kidding me, why shouldn't

I kid her. I told her I did not approve of the stage. "But the American people have